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Adm. Raborn:

Mum's The Word In His

New Job At CIA

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WASHINGTON

Adm. William F. Raborn, newly appointed director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has already learned the first rule of his job.

He doesn't talk to reporters.

Ask the affable, red-haired admiral a question, a grin splits his ruddy, square face. His blue eyes twinkle and out comes the answer:

"No comment."

The story of "Red" Raborn's appointment to the top U.S. counter-espionage post must be gleaned from his record.

And it's an imposing one.

Raborn, 59, is credited with the herculean task of developing the Polaris missile and wedding it to the nuclear submarine. He was given the assignment in 1955 by Adm. Arleigh Burke, former Chief of Naval Operations. Raborn's target date was 1963.

The first Polaris missile was fired from a submerged submarine in July, 1960.

"He's the best organizer I ever saw," says Adm. Burke. "The work he did on the Polaris system is unbelievable."

Those organization talents will now be directed at the CIA.

Raborn will operate out of a cluster

of gleaming white office like buildings in the nearby Virginia suburb of McLean. The buildings are screened from public view by trees. A high wire fence surrounds the compound. There are no signs, except for a few innocuous "Bureau of Public Roads" markers.

Thousands of Washington visitors speed past on the nearby George Washington Parkway and Dolly Madison Highway, never realizing they are within a stone's throw of the nation's "spy" center.

The admiral's appointment is a popular one in most quarters.

Senate confirmation came quickly and members of both parties heaped praise on Raborn and his new deputy director, Richard M. Helms.

Helms, a career CIA man since 1947 when the agency was organized, replaces Lt. Gen. Marshall S. Carter, deputy under John A. McCone, CIA boss since 1961.

The National Security Act provides that "at no time shall the two positions of the director and deputy director be occupied simultaneously by commissioned officers of the armed services, whether in an active or retired state."

Some concern has been voiced over the rule that costs the agency the valuable experience of men like Gen. Carter. It has also been pointed out

that the CIA needs at least one military man in high position because so much of its work requires expert military evaluation.

Raborn has been a vice president of Aerojet General Corp. of Pasadena, since his 1963 retirement from the Navy. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1928 and was an aviator and a carrier officer during World War II.

He won the Silver Star in 1945 for his work in saving the carrier Hanock after it was struck by a Japanese bomber.

President Johnson became acquainted with Raborn and his work during the 1950s when Mr. Johnson was a senator and the admiral was deputy chief of Naval operations for research. During that time, Raborn won respect as one of the nation's top experts in weapons development and evaluation.

One of Raborn's biggest organizational problems may be to define the spheres of interest of the CIA and the lesser-known, but fast-growing Defense Intelligence Agency of Defense Secretary Robert McNamara.

It is no secret the two agencies eye each other with suspicion in some areas.

There has been some sniping at the Raborn appointment because of Aerojet

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General's defense contracts and because the film is headed by Dan Kimball, former secretary of the Navy. The CIA has contracts with several large corporations. The Senate, however, dismissed this criticism. Sen. John Stennis, D-Miss., said Armed Service Committee members were "completely satisfied" with Raborn. The admiral gave the committee a list of all the securities he holds and said he will dispose of any the senators recommend.

At the Armed Services Committee hearing on the appointments, Sen. Jack Miller, R-Iowa, voiced one question that reflects a major CIA problem.

Noting that there appears to be a potential for conflict between CIA operations in foreign countries and the activities of U.S. ambassadors, Miller asked Raborn about CIA lines of authority.

The CIA is responsible to the National Security Council, which is headed by the president, Raborn replied.

Acting Chairman Stennis interrupted, whispered to Miller and Miller agreed to continue his questioning in closed session.

A friend of Raborn's shook his head at the incident.

"Red is going to find out that the CIA gets no credit for its accomplish-

ments, and a lot of blame for other people's mistakes," he said.

"That's the kind of organization it is. Everything has to be kept secret."

Only a few members of Congress are briefed on CIA operations. The agency's budget requests are carefully guarded.

These total an estimated half billion dollars a year, perhaps more.

The most celebrated CIA ventures have been the U2 spy flights over Russia and the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Most of the blame for the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco has fallen on the CIA, but newsmen, congressmen, historians and others who have investigated admit it may never be known just where the responsibility for failure lay. Through four years of controversy, the CIA has said nothing.

Raborn is the first military man to head the CIA since the retirement of Gen. Walter Bedell Smith in 1953. Allen Dulles took over and directed the agency until 1961 when McCone was named after service as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Rear Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter was in charge when the CIA replaced the wartime Office of Strategic Services in 1947. Bedell Smith imposed military discipline. Dulles was more relaxed

and perhaps more knowledgeable in the traditional ways of intelligence operations. McCone was a businessman with a business-like approach to problems.

Raborn seems a happy combination of all three.

But he's going to be tough on reporters.

His appointment was formalized at a meeting with Mr. Johnson at the President's Texas ranch last month.

The visit was unannounced and reporters were startled when Raborn stepped out of the ranch house onto the porch.

One reporter boasted of a long friendship with Raborn and told his colleagues:

"Let me talk to him alone. I'll find out why he's here."

He approached the admiral, talked for a few minutes, then reported back.

"He says he was just passing through Texas and dropped in. He says he knows nothing about any appointments."

Minutes later, President Johnson stepped onto the porch and introduced the new boss of the CIA.

Reporters enjoyed their colleague's discomfort, but they knew, too, that "Red" Raborn was learning his job in a hurry.

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